

REMARKS

Applicants amend claims 5 and 10 and cancel claims 1-4, 7-9 and 12-15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 5, 6, 10 and 11 are all the claims pending in the application.

Allowable claims

Examiner indicates that claims 5-6 and 10-11 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 10 to include all the limitations of the base claim 1 (now cancelled) and intervening claims 3 and 4 (both now cancelled), and therefore claims 5-6 and 10-11 should be allowed.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 7-9 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bannai et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0208525; hereinafter “Bannai”). Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bannai.

Even though Applicants do not agree with Examiners rejection of claims 1-4, 7-9 and 12-15, Applicants hereby cancel these claims in the interest of expediting the allowance of the present Application and resumes its rights to pursue these and/or additional claims in separate continuation application. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is rendered moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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